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Useful Lesson

In the sorrowful marking up of errors and half-way preparedness for the so-called invasion of Cuba, the Cuban Revolutionary Council has its own portion of the heavy burden.

Organized about a year ago, the Council consisted of two main groups. Miro Cardona headed the conservative wing of the Council; Manola Ray was leader of the liberals.

Both men are known as sincere patriots. Ray was a member of a large Cuban construction company. With his engineering knowledge he had given Castro valuable aid in the fight against Batista. He left Castro when that unaccountable leader permitted the Communist leaders, including his brother Raul, to take over the revolution and Fidel. The Council received aid from the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

It is said around Washington that Ray's role in the preparations was to send into Cuba, between May 15 and June 15, trained saboteurs to do the most possible damage to military and industrial centers in Cuba — Ray knew the strategic areas, having been Castro's expert in sabotage.

This was good planning, it must seem. But apparently to the underground leaders there was too little action, and thus they were begging Cardona to act soon.

Cardona decided to unleash a force that was to land and make contact with the underground island rebels.

Here was the beginning of tragedy. For, as the story goes, Ray never received notice of the "invasion" program, and some of his officers were on the way to the United States when the expedition was clobbered and mauled on a swampy beach. The Cuban Intelligence seems to have been on the job.

In due time all the threads of fact, fiction and theory will be placed in order. General Maxwell Taylor is now at work on some of the strands.

Meanwhile, President Kennedy is girding himself and warning the American people to be ready for whatever the future may have in store.

The rebel movement is not dead. It will, however, hardly fail to concentrate on what President Kennedy has spoken of as "the useful lessons of a sobering episode." One strange lesson seems to be that not all of Cardona's officers in Cuba were informed that a landing force was on the way to the island.

Why kick about the cost of spring hats, husbands? Get your laugh when you see them, and be satisfied.